

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

FIFTH DISEASE **(Erythema Infectiosum; Human Parvo Virus Infection)**

What is Fifth Disease?

Fifth Disease is a common viral infection with rash occurring 1-3 weeks after infection.

What are the signs and symptoms of a Fifth Disease infection?

Fifth Disease is a mild, lace-like rash occurring on the body, arms, and legs, usually without a fever. The most striking symptom is the redness of the cheeks which creates a slapped face appearance. The rash may appear and re-appear after exposure to heat for up to six weeks.

How are Fifth Disease infections spread?

It is spread mainly through contact with infected respiratory secretions before the rash appears. Children are more likely to have the infection than adults.

What is the incubation period of Fifth Disease and how long is it contagious?

The incubation period varies from 4 to 21 days. Fifth Disease is more communicable before the appearance of the rash, and is less likely to be communicable after the appearance of the rash.

What should I do if I think I have a Fifth Disease infection?

Persons who have these symptoms should see their physicians for diagnosis and treatment. Disease can be severe in persons with sickle cell disease, certain blood disorders or compromised immune systems. Children should be excluded if child is unable to participate and staff determines that they cannot care for the child without compromising the health and safety of the other children in the group.

How can I prevent myself and others from getting a Fifth Disease infection?

Good hand washing with soap and water and covering the nose and mouth when coughing may reduce spread of the disease. Blowing one's nose into a tissue, discarding the tissue into the trash, and then washing one's hands can prevent spreading the infection. Avoid public gatherings when sick and avoid eating or drinking from another's plate, glass, or utensils.

For more information, please contact the Florida Department of Health in Orange County Epidemiology Program at 407-858-1420. You may also visit the Epidemiology Program website, <http://orchd.com/generalHealth/epidemiology/index.asp>, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, <http://www.cdc.gov/parvovirusB19/fifth-disease.html>, or the DOH-Orange School Health website at <http://orchd.com/personalHealth/schoolHealth/index.asp> for additional information.

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